

The Tom-Tom



A Student Publication of
EAST CENTRAL
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Volume 69, Number 3

April 2018



ECCC announces 2018 Hall of Fame

Recipients of Hall of Fame and other honors were recognized during the annual Awards Day program held April 23, 2018, at East Central Community College in Decatur.

Selection to the Hall of Fame is considered the highest honor a student can receive at the college, according to Dr. Billy Stewart, ECCC president, who presented the awards.

"To be considered for the prestigious honor," Dr. Stewart said, "students must demonstrate exemplary character, superior scholarship, worthy leadership and contribute to the betterment of East Central Community College."

Hall of Fame inductees for 2018 and their respective high schools include Makaeya Brock, Jessica Everett and Reagan Gorgas, all of Newton County; Mackenzie Johnson and Marlee Parkes, both of Nanih Waiya, and Peyton Ryals of Louisville.

Brock is a President's and Dean's List scholar, president of the Student Body Association, captain of the Centralettes dance line and a vice president for Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. She is a member of Vocé vocal ensemble, concert choir, Baptist Student Union, Warrior Corps and Phi Beta Lambda.

She was selected a sophomore Homecoming Maid and was selected a beauty during the annual ECCC beauty pageant. In addition, she received first place in the business presentation category at the Phi Beta Lambda state leadership conference.

Brock is a graduate of Newton County

High School and is the daughter of Scott and Daniele Brock of Decatur.

Those nominating her wrote, "Makaeya is an outgoing student in and out of the classroom. She is very dedicated to her studies and her campus and church activities. She is a great example of what an East Central Warrior should look like."

Everett is a President's and Dean's List scholar and serves as president of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, regional secretary for Phi Theta Kappa, state president for Phi Beta Lambda and president of ECCC's Theta Chi Chapter of PBL, secretary of the Student Body Association, Drum Major for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band, and president of the President's Council. She is a member of concert band, pep band, winter guard, Warrior Corps, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Environmental Club, SkillsUSA, Students for Life, College Republicans and the Wo-He-Lo yearbook and Tom Tom newspaper staffs.

She was selected Homecoming Maid of Honor, received a first place award in the small business management category at the national Phi Beta Lambda leadership conference and received the Dr. Margaret Mosal Memorial Scholarship for Leadership.

Everett is the daughter of John and Donna Everett of Decatur and Susan and Jon Withers of Philadelphia.

Those nominating her wrote, "Jessica Everett is the epitome of an all-around stu-

See AWARDS, Page 5



BROCK



EVERETT



GORGAS



JOHNSON



PARKES



RYALS

Ryals, Everett



Annual EC Warrior

named Mr. & Miss ECCC

Peyton Ryals of Louisville and Jessica Everett of Decatur were selected Mr. and Miss East Central Community College for the 2017-18 school year by a recent vote of the student body.

A sophomore business administration major, Everett serves president of Phi Theta Kappa, Phi Beta Lambda, and the President's Council. She also serves as Mississippi/Louisiana region secretary for Phi Theta Kappa and state president of Phi Beta Lambda. She is a drum major for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band and is secretary of the Student Body Association. She serves as vice president of Diamond Darlings and is a member of Warrior Corps, Students Against Destructive Decisions and Phi Beta Lambda Hall of Fame. She was selected a freshman Homecoming maid and was this year's Maid of Honor.

She is a graduate of Newton County High School and is the daughter of John and Donna Everett of Decatur and Susan and Jon Withers of Philadelphia.

A sophomore agricultural engineering major, Ryals serves as the vice president for membership for Phi Theta Kappa, vice president of Students Against Destructive Decisions, vice president of College Republicans and is a member of Warrior Corps. A President's and Dean's List scholar, he serves as a dormitory resident assistant and participates in College Worship and intramural sports.

A graduate of Louisville High School, he is the son of Shonna and Kevin Ryals of Louisville.



EC PHOTO

Peyton Ryals and Jessica Everett were selected Mr. and Miss East Central Community College for 2017-18.

Golf Classic to be held Friday, May 11

The 17th Warrior Golf Classic sponsored by the East Central Community College Alumni Association will be held on Friday, May 11, the first time the annual event has been held on a Friday to better accommodate the participating golfers.

The tournament will again be held at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Club in Choctaw, moving this year to the Oaks Course to provide golfers with a different venue.

Those are just some of the changes for the 2018 tournament, but unchanged is that all proceeds support the scholarship program at East Central Community College.

Last year's tournament raised more than \$10,000 for the scholarship program, and tournament coordinator David LeBlanc said some of the changes for this year's tournament are designed to increase that number.

"This tournament first and foremost is about raising money to help deserving students defray the cost of an education at East Central Community College," said LeBlanc, director of alumni relations and the foundation at the college. "We've made some changes that we hope will attract more participation and in turn more funding for student scholarships."

What hasn't changed for the Warrior Golf Classic is an outstanding golf course and the many amenities offered to the participants.

The four-person scramble will start an hour later this year, at 10 a.m., with a shotgun start. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. The Warrior

See GOLF, Page 3

Fisher selected ECCC Instructor of the Year

Sharon LeJeune Fisher of Meridian, biological sciences instructor, was selected East Central Community College's "Instructor of the Year" for 2018 and will be recognized during the college's Administration, Faculty and Staff Association (AFSA) end-of-the-year luncheon in May.

Fisher began her tenure at East Central in 2002, having previously served as a science instructor at Meridian High School from 1990-2002. She also taught as an adjunct instructor for ECCC from 1996 to 2002, and taught four years at Kate Griffin Junior High School in Meridian. She was a developmental chemist for Vanity Fair in Monroeville, Ala., for five years prior to her teaching career.

When students describe

Fisher's classes and her teaching style, they use words like energy and excitement. They say she always keeps class interesting. So how does one keep that level of high energy and excitement after so many years in the classroom?

"The students are my major motivator," Fisher said. "It is so great to work with them each day and hopefully help them learn and prepare for their future careers. It is a joy to teach such wonderful students. They are my source of energy!"

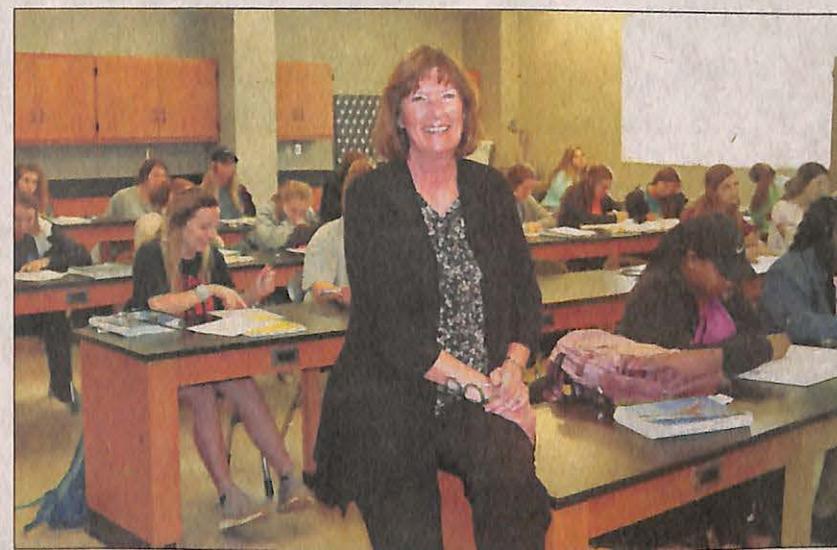
In her 32 years as a classroom instructor, Fisher has received various awards included being named HEADWAE (Higher Education Appreciation Day: Working Toward Academic Excellence) Instructor of the Year, an honor presented by the Mississippi Legislature, in 2003

and 2017; selected a Lamplighter in 1999, which recognized outstanding community and junior college faculty across the state; and she was previously selected ECCC Instructor of the Year in 2004.

Although she has been recognized many times for outstanding teaching, she is quick to count among her greatest memories the time she has spent with students.

"After 32 years, there are so many! But they always involve working with students and colleagues. Whether it's an animal story memory, an Environmental Club memory, or one of the many memories our science faculty have, they always involve our students!"

When asked her best advice for students, Fisher said, "Study, study, study! Always



EC PHOTO

Sharon Lejeune Fisher was selected the 2017-18 East Central Community College Instructor of the Year.

read the chapters! Always go to class! You will set yourself up to succeed! Manage your time well and you will have time for the other activities that are such fun and together will make for

such wonderful memories of EC!"

Fisher received her bachelor's and master's degrees in biology and her educational specialist

See FISHER, Page 5



EC PHOTO

CLASS FAVORITES – These students at East Central Community College were recently selected class favorites following a vote of the Student Body Association. Pictured are (front row, from left) freshmen Alayna Spears of Collinsville, Sadie Fulton and Adrienne Sisson, both of Philadelphia and Miranda Watson of Louisville; (second row, from left) sophomores Hayden Hudspeth and Carley Puckett, both of Louisville; Joseph Blount of Philadelphia; and Patrick Riley of Hickory; freshmen Chandler Denton of Morton, Robert Sanford of Decatur, Austin Taylor of Newton, and Clark Graham of Louisville; and (back row, from left) sophomores Caleb McGrew of Meridian and Jonathan Hall of Philadelphia. Not pictured are sophomores Taylor Hardy of Starkville and Destiny Barrett of Decatur.

Gorgas, Partain named to PTK academic team

East Central Community College sophomores Reagan Gorgas of Decatur and Laicon Partain of Sebastopol were named to the 2018 Phi Theta Kappa Community and Junior Colleges All-Mississippi Academic Team.

The All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team recognizes scholarly achievements and leadership accomplishments of students enrolled in the state's two-year colleges.

Against Destructive Decisions. She is a member of Phi Beta Lambda, concert choir and Warrior Corps and served as vice president of her freshman class.

Gorgas is a graduate of Newton County High School and is the daughter of Dan and Lisa Gorgas of Decatur.

Partain, an accounting major who also plans to become a physical therapist, was one of 48 students named to the Second Team.



John Johnson of Morton joins ECCCC Board of Trustees

John Johnson of Morton is the newest member of the East Central Community College Board of Trustees, representing Scott County.

A 1978 graduate of East Central Junior College, Johnson was recently appointed by the Scott County Board of Supervisors to fill the spot of Vernon Crotwell who retired after 29 years of service on the ECCCC Board of Trustees. Johnson attended his first Board of Trustees meeting in February.

Johnson spent more than 30 years in education, including as principal of Morton Elementary School from 2000-2013. He also served as assistant principal for five years and as a teacher and coach for 10 years at Morton Middle School. He also taught in the Madison County, Jackson Public, and Warren County school systems.

He holds a bachelor's de-

gree in elementary education from the University of Mississippi, and a master's degree

in elementary education, a master's degree in school administration, and an educational specialist degree in elementary education, all from Mississippi College.

Johnson is a member of First Baptist Church of Morton and of its Deacon Board and a member of the Board of Directors of Scott Regional Hospital.

He and his wife of 33 years, Sonda, have two daughters, Jana Johnson Hewitt of Clinton and Kara Beth Johnson of Morton, both graduates of East Central Community College.



JOHNSON



GOLF

Cost for individual players is \$165. If needed,

She received a \$1,000 scholarship.

She is a President's List scholar and was selected HEADWAE Student of the Year. She serves as co-editor of the yearbook, vice president of scholarship for Phi Theta Kappa, co-president of Warrior Corps, president of Catholic Campus Ministries, and president of Students

DECA and is a member of the Wall O' Sound Marching Band, concert choir, Warrior Corps and Jazz Band.

Partain is a graduate of Newton County High School and is the daughter of Robbie and Vivian Partain of Sebastopol.

They were honored along with other outstanding community and junior

Laicon Partain, left and Reagan Gorgas were named to the 2018 Phi Theta Kappa Community and Junior Colleges All-Mississippi Academic Team.

college students from across the state during an event in Jackson.

Both honorees received medallions, certificates, and printed resolutions from the Mississippi Senate and House of Representatives.

The All-Mississippi Academic Team program is coordinated by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges and the Mississippi Community College Board.

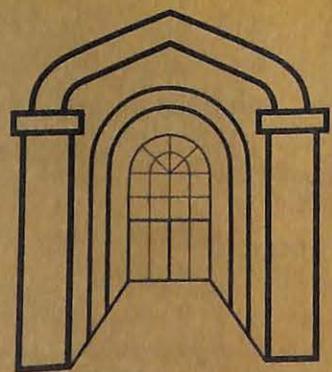
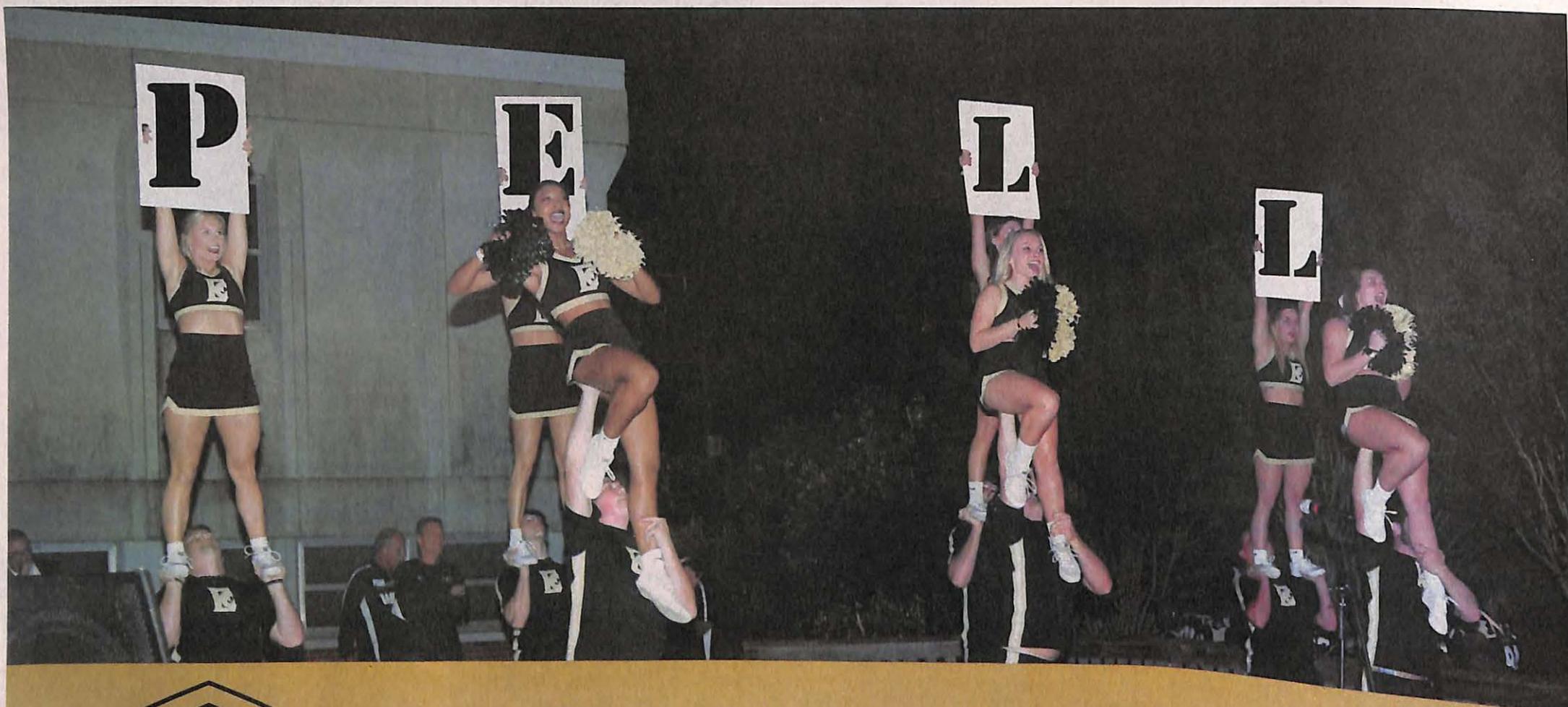
with a buffet lunch and awards ceremony around 3:30 p.m.

Golfers can register online at www.eccc.edu/estore. Gold Sponsorships are available for \$700, which includes entry fees for a four-person team and a Hole Sponsorship. Food and Beverage Sponsorships, Hole Sponsorships, and T-Shirt Sponsorships are \$200 each.

son team. All registered players will receive range balls before play, greens fees, cart, and lunch. Mulligans will also be available for purchase.

The deadline to register is Monday, May 7.

For more information, contact LeBlanc at dleblanc@eccc.edu or 601-635-6327.

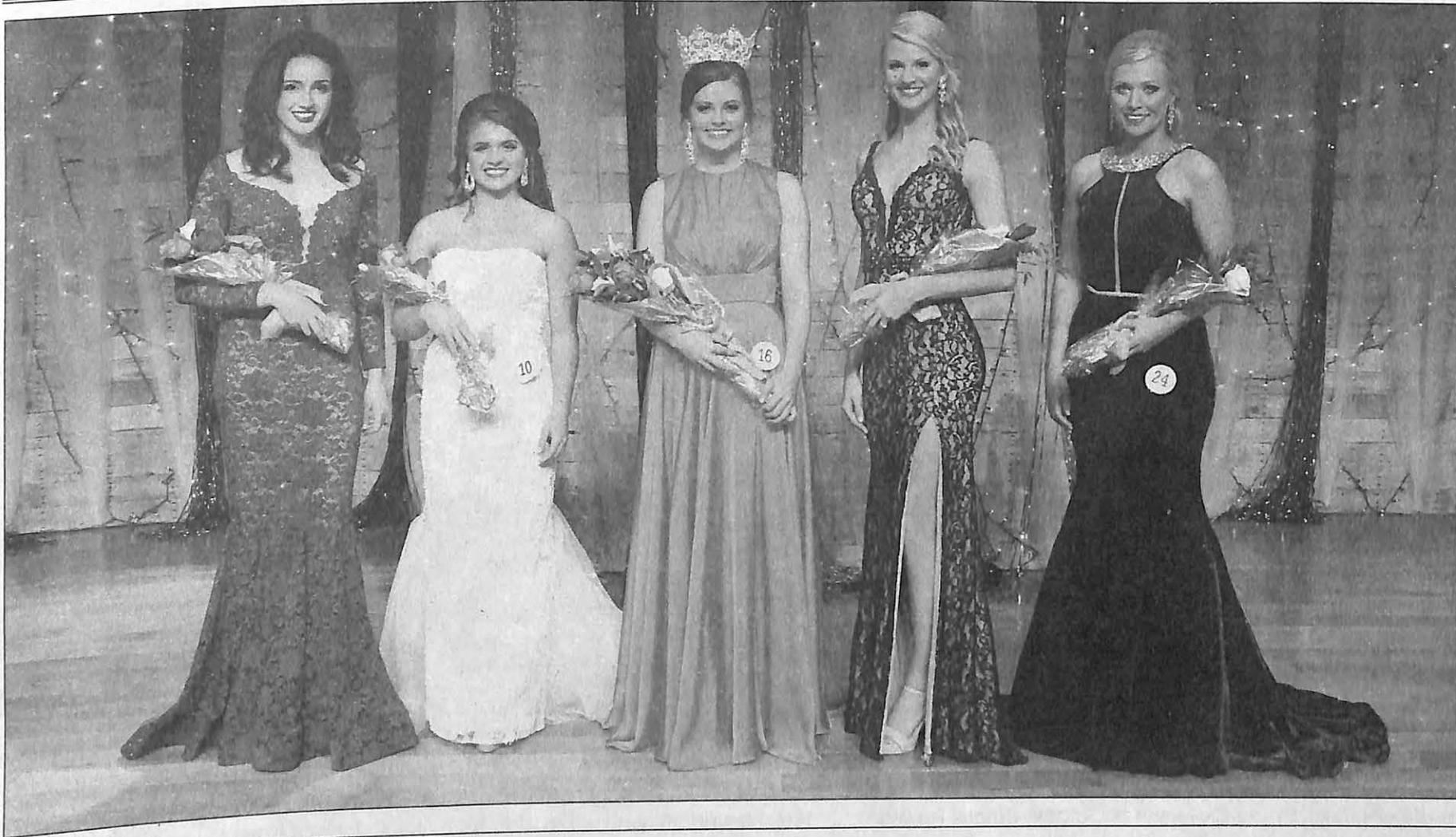


**EAST
CENTRAL**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

YELL FOR PELL!

The Federal Pell Grant is back to year-round status and is available for Summer 2018 classes for eligible students.

Contact ECCC Financial Aid at 601-635-6326
for more information.



EC PHOTO

BEAUTY PAGEANT – Freshman liberal arts major Corban Nutt (center) was selected as East Central Community College's Most Beautiful at the annual Beauty Pageant held March 5 in Huff Auditorium. Twenty-eight East Central students participated in the event. Named Beauties were (from left) Makaeya Brock, Laken Winstead, Rebekah Scitzs, and Allison Harris. Contestants participated in interview, opening number, and evening gown.



EC again experiences highest percentage enrollment increase

For the second straight semester, East Central Community College has experienced the highest percentage enrollment increase among the 15 community and junior colleges in the state of Mississippi.

ECCC reported a 10.3 percent increase in unduplicated head count enrollment for the spring 2018 semester, compared to the spring 2017 semester, according to the 10th day enrollment report released last week by the Mississippi Community College Board.

The college also had a 6.5 percent increase in

taken.

The second highest percentage increase in unduplicated headcount for spring 2018 was 7.0 percent and the only other increase in semester credit hours was 3.4 percent.

East Central experienced a 10.3 percent increase in unduplicated headcount in fall 2017 which was also the largest among all two-year and four-year schools in Mississippi.

East Central Community College President Dr. Billy Stewart credits the college's fall and spring enrollment successes on several factors.

two Instructional Counselor positions to assist currently enrolled students in persisting to graduation."

Stewart also indicated that the opening of the new Women's Residence Hall in August 2017 assisted with the enrollment increases as it has provided a minimum of 112 additional living spaces to help reduce a waiting list of female students wishing to reside on campus.

The college's dual credit enrollment also has grown substantially thanks to the implementation in fall 2017 of a pilot program allowing a tiered tuition rate for dual credit stu-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

ECCC Phi Beta Lambda students receiving awards during the State Leadership Conference included (front row, from left) Alexis Patrick, Mickenzie Myers, Shelby Greenwood, Onelia Prez and Autumn McMillan; (second row, from left) Brittany Watkins, Reagan Gorgas, Sydney Bacumn and Alexis Rover; (third row, from left) Abby Smith, Jessica Everett, Jackie Cates and Samantha McMullan; (fourth row, from left) Jacob Plaisance, Drew Chapman, Jacob Hemphill and Guillermo Fermin; and (back row, from left) Joseph Blount, Justin Wilcher and Sam Loper.

EC PBL students receive top honors in state competition

Members of East Central Community College's Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda received top honors during the State Leadership Conference and qualified for national competition in 16 categories. National competition will be held this summer in Baltimore, Md. The state conference was held at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus.

Theta Chi also received first place in raising funds for the March of Dimes, first place in Mississippi for the largest local chapter, received Foundation Recognition and was recognized as a Gold Seal Chapter.

Individual recognition was given to Jessica Everett of Decatur who was the outgoing state president, and newly elected state officers Justin Wilcher of Philadelphia, vice president, and Sam Loper of Philadelphia, parliamentarian. Joseph Blount of Philadelphia received the Rufus T. Jones Scholarship and Theta Chi members selected for Who's Who in PBL included Blount, Everett, and Nicole Ferguson and Abby Smith, both of Philadelphia.

Inducted in the Mississippi Phi Beta Lambda Hall of Fame were Everett, and Khalil Triplett and Kiara Cunningham, both of Philadelphia, for their first place national recognition in Small Business Plan during the 2017 National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, Calif.

State award winners include Reagan Gorgas of Decatur and Guillermo Fermin and Brittany Watkins, both of Forest, first place, business presentation; Jackie Cates of Newton and Samantha McMullan of Decatur, first place, computer animation; Nicole Ferguson and Khalil Triplett, both of Philadelphia, first place, financial services; Shelby Greenwood of Philadelphia, first place, Future Business Executive; Ferguson, Triplett, Greenwood, and Justin Wilcher and Sam Loper, both of Philadelphia, first place, parliamentary procedure; Joseph Blount of Philadelphia, Mickenzie Myers of Forest, and Makaeya Brock of Decatur, first place, integrated marketing campaign; Suzanne Hollingsworth of Forest and Wilcher, first place,

local chapter annual business report; Sydney Baucum and Jessica Everett, both of Decatur, first place, statistical analysis and decision making; Autumn McMillan and Abby Smith, both of Philadelphia, and Watkins, first place, emerging business issues; Cates, second place, accounting analysis and decision making; Alexis Rover of Little Rock, second place, public speaking; Baucum, second place, job interview; Everett, second place, client service; Blount and McMullan, second place, forensic accounting; Robert Chapman of Union, Jacob Hemphill of Decatur, and Jacob Plaisance of Union, second place, business law; Fermin, third place, impromptu speaking; Smith, Gorgas, and Alexis Patrick of Forest, third place, social media campaign; Chapman, Hemphill, and Plaisance, third place, marketing analysis and decision making; and Sam Loper, fourth place, business communications.

Christy Ferguson, Thomas Fortenberry and Judy Hurtt serve as advisors.

in which all students are enrolled, over last spring, also the highest percentage increase among the state's two-year colleges. ECCC's unduplicated headcount for spring 2018 after the first 10 days of classes was 2,275 students, compared to 2,062 students the same time a year ago.

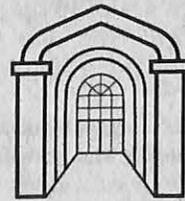
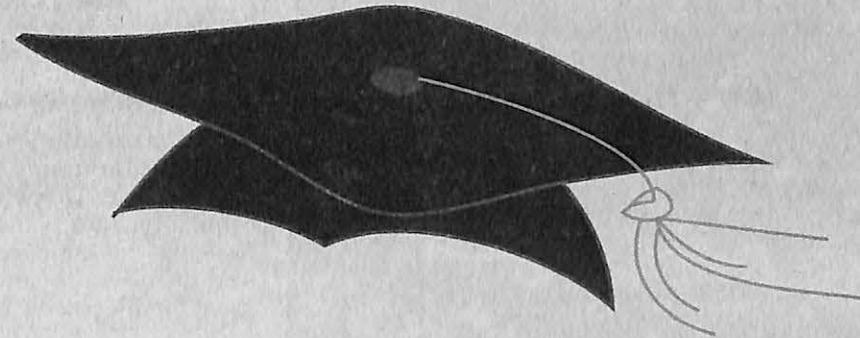
In addition to East Central, only three of the other 14 community or junior colleges in Mississippi reported increases in unduplicated head count enrollment for spring 2018, while only one other community or junior college reported an increase in semester credit hours

in fall 2016 and spring 2017," said Stewart. "Therefore, a lot of effort and focus was put on both recruiting and retaining students. I'm extremely proud of our faculty and staff for their hard work in helping us to both attract and retain outstanding students.

"A restructuring of our Student Services Division also allowed us to utilize three Student Recruiters/Enrollment Specialists who work with high school students in our five-county district and with other prospective students to help them enroll at ECCC. In addition, the restructuring allowed us to create

fulfilling our vision to be nationally recognized and locally preferred," said Stewart. "With our strong commitment to Student Success and Teaching & Learning, students know that if they enroll at East Central Community College, they will be prepared well for the next step in their educational or professional journey."

For more information on enrolling at East Central Community College in Decatur, including on-campus housing, scholarships and dual credit, please contact the Student Services Division at go2ec@eccc.edu or 877-GO-2-ECCC.



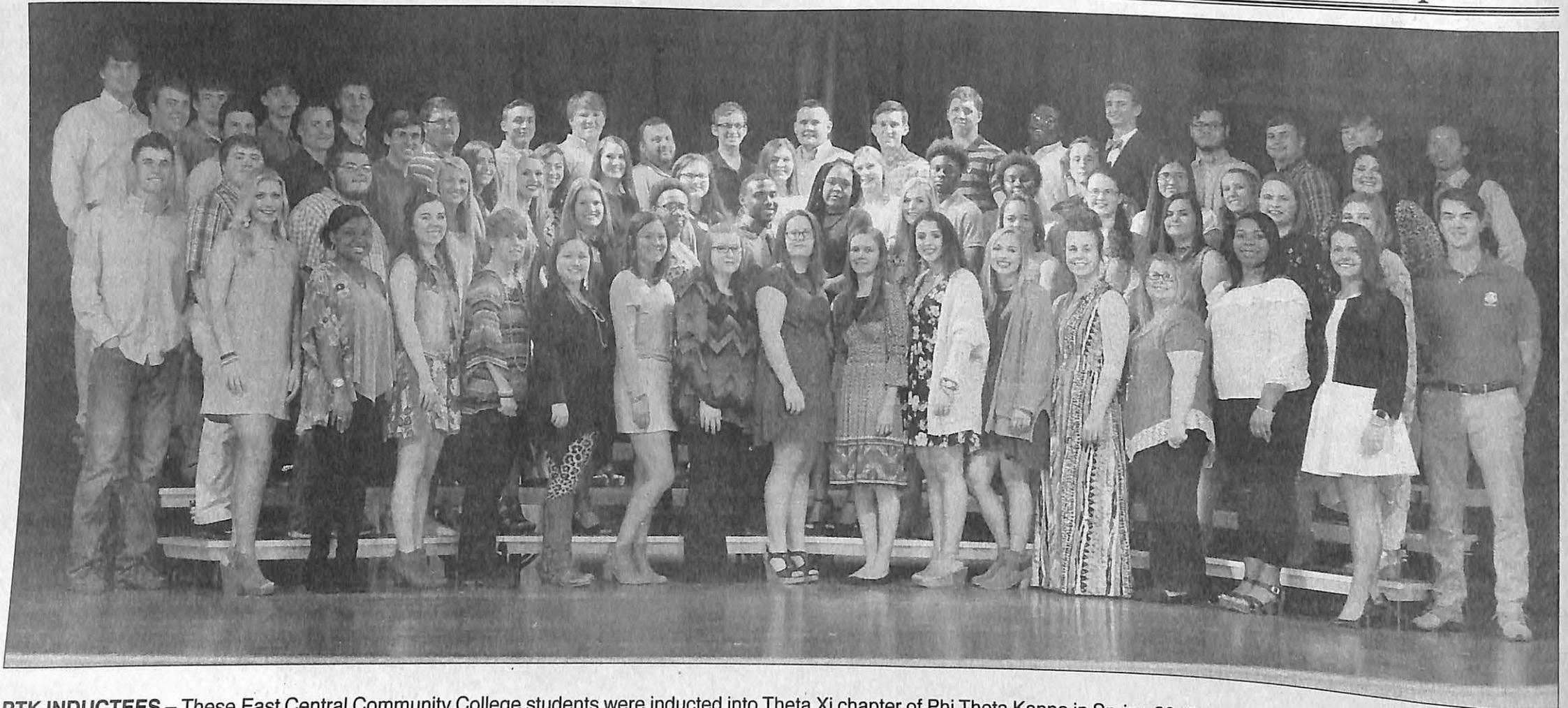
EAST CENTRAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Graduation

Friday, May 4, 2018

6 p.m.

Neshoba County Coliseum
Philadelphia



EC PHOTO

PTK INDUCTEES – These East Central Community College students were inducted into Theta Xi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa in Spring 2018. Inductees and their hometowns include (front row, from left) Allison Harris of Collinsville, Stacia Cleveland of Decatur, Brooke Rawson of Forest, Nena Hammond of Decatur, Molli Alexander and Katie Dulay both of Union, Samantha McMullan of Decatur, Kalyn Smith of Carthage, Anna Brooke Skinner of Union, Savannah Watkins, Kayla Lovorn and Madison Boykin all of Louisville, Sarah Hollingsworth of Decatur, and Brianna Ickom and Claire Harris both of Lake; (second row, from left) Woody Vowell of Ackerman, Mason Garner of Newton, Jason Hocutt of Forest, Rebekah Scitzs of Collinsville, Marla Hudson of Louisville, Adrienne Sisson of Philadelphia, NaDayjah Keeton of Lake, Marzell Triplett of Forest, Amia Henry of Carthage, Marygrace Lee and Alexis Patrick, both of Forest, Niley Craven of Newton, Sara Mazzella of Lawrence, Grace Addy of Carthage, Tori Ferguson of Decatur, and Jacob School of Madison; (third row, from left) Austin Braswell of Hattiesburg, Letrice Strength of Carthage, Jeremy Griffin of Union, Christopher Baker, Ashley Malone, and Iris Keen, all of Louisville, Carrie Logan of Lake, Halli Feasel of Philadelphia, Kayla Feist of Collinsville, Robyn Gilbert of Forest, Santorrius Jackson of Meridian, Celeeka Roby of Carthage, Landon Gibson and Ken Scott of Lake, Halli Meridian, Heidy Quinonez Herrera of Bogota, Colombia, Bethany Wellerman of Lawrence, and Hayley Null of Collinsville; and (back row, from left) Parker Leitaker of Carthage, Daniel Wall of Decatur, Shelby Withers of Carthage, Nathan Davis of Decatur, Chris Bates of Sebastopol, Philip Webster of Meridian, Jason Newbaker of Collinsville, Justin Wilcher of Philadelphia, Evan Miles of Sebastopol, Ryan Ethridge of Collinsville, Beau Roberts of Meridian, Will Ladner of Perkinston, Chris Sharpe of Walnut Grove, Matthew Moore of Decatur, Joshua Grimes of Lake, Clark Graham of Louisville, Drew Weir of Newton, and Jonathan Green of Carthage.





EC PHOTO

DECA WINNERS – East Central Community College DECA students received various awards during state DECA competition held recently at the Clyde Muse Center in Pearl. First and second place winners will advance to national competition scheduled in Washington, D.C., in April. Award recipients included (front row, from left) Brianna Campbell of Decatur, sixth place, restaurant and food service management; Alaina Barrier of Philadelphia, fifth place, restaurant and food service management; Laicon Partain of Sebastopol and Albany Davis of Newton, sixth place, business ethics; and Claire Harris of Lake, first place, fashion merchandising and marketing; and (back row, from left) Sam Moore of Union and Summer Henry of Decatur, first place, sports and entertainment marketing; and Hailey Morris of Union and Andrew Elberson of Bad Kreuznach, Germany, second place, international marketing. Wanda Hurley, Ruth Gregory and Barry Karrh serve as advisors. DECA is an international association of high school and college students and teachers of marketing, management and entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality, and marketing sales and service. The organization prepares leaders and entrepreneurs for careers and education in marketing, finance, hospitality, management, and other business areas.



EC PHOTO

CULINARY ART WINNERS – East Central Community College Culinary Arts Technology students (from left) Adam Anderson of Forest, Alaina Barrier of Philadelphia and Sri Grant of Conehatta received third place honors in the culinary category of the state DECA competition held recently at the Clyde Muse Center in Pearl. Wanda Hurley, Ruth Gregory and Barry Karrh serve as advisors. DECA is an international association of high school and college students and teachers of marketing, management and entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality, and marketing sales and service. The organization prepares leaders and entrepreneurs for careers and education in marketing, finance, hospitality, management, and other business areas.

The Tom-Tom is a student publication of East Central Community College in Decatur, Miss. It is published by the Office of Public Information. For more information, contact the staff at P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS, 39327 or by phone at 601-635-2111, ext. 364, or toll free at 1-877-462-3222.

Accreditation

East Central Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the Associate Degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of East Central Community College.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

East Central Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or qualified disability in its educational programs and activities, employment practices, or admissions processes. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies of East Central Community College:

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI, ADEA, and Title IX are coordinated by Dr. Teresa Houston, Vice President for Instruction, Walter Arno Vincent Administration Building, Room 171, Post Office Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone: 601-635-6202, Fax: 601-635-4011, thouston@eccc.edu.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Section 504 and ADA are coordinated by Dr. Randall Lee, Vice President for Student Services, Eddie M. Smith Student Union, Room 201, Post Office Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone: 601-635-6375, Fax: 601-635-3247, rllee@eccc.edu.

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Amy Thompson

Co-Editors:

Demetreuna Rankin • Jakeem Triplett



EAST CENTRAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FEATURE TEACHER

John Everett

John Everett is an Electrical Technology Instructor at East Central.

■ **What made you want to become a teacher?**

The reason that I wanted to become a teacher is because I wanted to share the knowledge of my trade, and to spread the enthusiasm that I have for Electrical Technology.

■ **What is the highest degree you hold?**

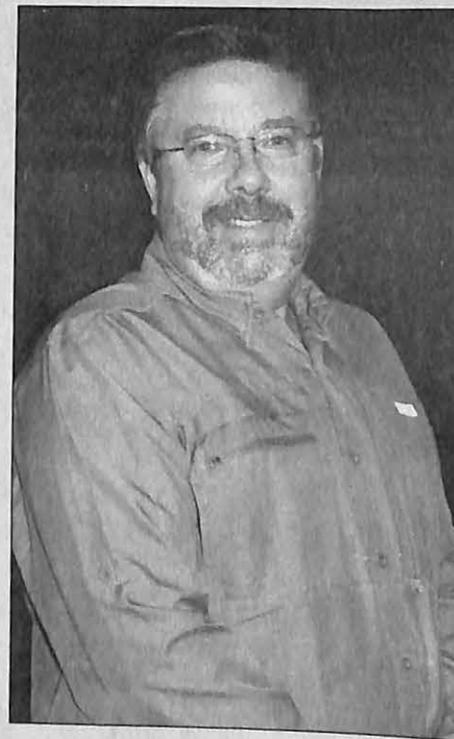
I have two associate degrees and two certificates and over 18 hours of other work at the university level.

■ **Where all have you taught?**

I have taught at Meridian Community College and East Central Community College.

■ **Why did you choose to teach Electrical Technology?**

I chose to teach Electrical Technology because in a way it chose



me. I have always found Electrical and Electronics interesting, from a very young age. The kit from Radio

Shack came with over 300 projects, and I wanted to build them all. This is what sparked my interest and desire to teach others.

■ **What is your favorite thing about EC?**

My favorite thing about EC is the people I work with: ranging from faculty, staff, and the students.

■ **What are some of your hobbies outside of teaching?**

I enjoy hunting, riding motorcycles with my family, and enjoy going on cruises with my wife and kids.

■ **What is one thing on your bucket list?**

One thing on my bucket list is to go to Alaska.

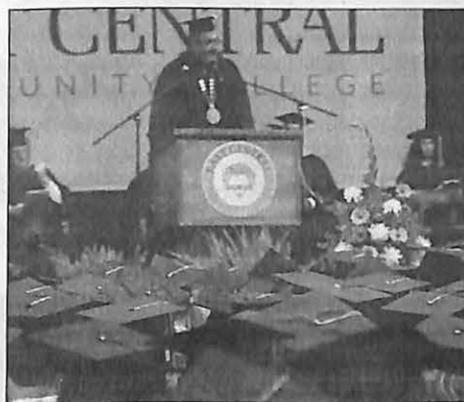
■ **Do you have any special plans for summer?**

My plans for this summer are to relax and spend time with my family.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Submit stories, photos or ideas to
athompson@eccc.edu

ECCC reaches 40 percent graduation rate



East Central, and it has created a culture of completion that is making a positive difference in the lives of our students in so many ways.”

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the most recent 150 percent (three-year) graduation rate for all two-year colleges in the United States is 31.6 percent. According to the 2016 IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) Data Feedback Report, the most recent 150 percent graduation rate for all two-year colleges in Mississippi is 33 percent.

East Central Community College has achieved a 40 percent, three-year graduation rate for the first time in over a decade, which is substantially higher than state and national graduation rates.

The accomplishment means that 40 percent of first-time, full-time students who enrolled in ECCC in fall 2014 completed a degree or certificate at the college by spring 2017. Of those students not completing a certificate or degree, 21 percent successfully transferred to another postsecondary institution, resulting in a 61 percent graduation plus transfer-out rate.

East Central's three-year graduation rate was just 24 percent five years ago.

ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart said that the college has been building toward the 40 percent mark since implementing innovative completion initiatives over the course of the past five years.

“Our efforts as a campus community towards meeting the Institutional Commitment of Student Success are paying great dividends for our students,” said Stewart. “Combined with our transfer-out rate, six of 10 students who enter ECCC as freshmen are achieving a successful educational outcome.

“Everyone on campus emphasizes to our students the importance of obtaining a degree prior to leaving

East Central receives clean fifth-year interim report from SACSCOC

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the accrediting body for East Central Community College in Decatur, has accepted the college's Fifth-Year Interim Report with no additional information requested.

ECCC submitted its Fifth-Year Interim Report, along with its Quality Enhancement Plan Impact Report, in September 2017. SACSCOC's decision on those reports came at its annual board meeting held in Dallas in December.

According to ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart, it is uncommon for an institution to have a report that does not require additional information or reports be submitted to SACSCOC in order to be judged in compliance with the accrediting body's standards and requirements.

“I am extremely proud of our college,” said Stewart. “This is a wonderful accomplishment that was a total team effort by the entire campus community. I would venture to guess that not all institutions have a ‘clean’ report and many are required to provide additional information or reports in order to be judged in compliance,

which makes the status of our reports that much more satisfying.

“It also is a wonderful reflection on the educational programs and services we provide for every student at East Central Community College every single day.”

SACSCOC, with headquarters in Decatur, Ga., is one of eight regional accrediting bodies for colleges and universities in the U.S, serving institutions in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Latin America.

Colleges and universities that are accredited by SACSCOC must seek reaffirmation of that accreditation every 10 years, which requires an off-site campus visit by a peer committee and submission of a five-year Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). At the midway point of the accreditation process, institutions must submit a Fifth-Year Interim Report on progress since the previous off-site campus visit, including a report on the impact of the QEP.

The QEP is designed to improve an aspect of student learning or the environment for student success.

Titled The Warrior Path to Success, ECCC's QEP was designed to enhance student learning and engagement for first-time, first-semester, full-time, at-risk students enrolled in developmental classes. Those students were placed in an academically challenging seminar in the first semester of the initial year of enrollment with a goal to develop college success skills to promote retention and persistence to completion and graduation. ECCC's review of The Warrior Path to Success indicated that the initiative improved retention and completion for the students it served.

According to David Case, ECCC's vice president for institutional research and effectiveness, ECCC is already preparing for its next 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation by SACSCOC, an intensive process that involves every area of campus. The deadline to submit the compliance certification report is spring 2021, followed by a visit to campus by a SACSCOC peer review committee in fall 2021.

ECCC's next QEP plan will be due to SACSCOC in late summer or early fall 2021.

FISHER From Page 1

degree from the University of West Alabama (previously Livingston University). She also holds an associate degree from East Mississippi Community College.

She is a member of Kappa Kappa Iota, National Science Teachers Association, Association of Southeastern Biologists and Mississippi Science Teachers Association. She is a past president and vice president of AFSA and participates in Relay for Life.

AWARDS From Page 1

dent. She has a distinct way of balancing her academic, social, and organizational activities. She doesn't just participate in her school and community, she leads, organizes and inspires others to do the same.”

Gorgas is a President's List Scholar and serves

wrote, “Mackenzie is truly deserving of this nomination. Along with being a member of the Lady Warrior softball team, she is involved in many clubs and organizations while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She is driven and always gives her best effort in all that she strives to do. ... She always has a smile on her face and is eager to assist with whatever needs to be done. I don't have

is a resident assistant. He is a member of Students for Life, Students Against Destructive Decisions, and participates in intramurals.

He was selected Mr. East Central Community College, a freshman class favorite and received numerous scholarships.

Ryals is a graduate of Louisville High School and is the son of Kevin and Shonna Ryals of Lou-

is a resident assistant. He is a member of Students for Life, Students Against Destructive Decisions, and participates in intramurals.

Recipients of healthcare education awards include Tabatha Alford of Lake, Associate Degree Nursing Outstanding Achievement Award, and Joya Young of Meridian, Practical Nursing Award.

Those receiving special awards were Sydney Baucum of Decatur, Citizenship Award and Astronomy Club Award; George Farid of Missis-

Hutchison Elementary Education Award; Sharlee Walley of Forest and Cassandra Warnsley of Decatur, co-recipients Mississippi Business Educators Association Award; Anna Skinner of Union, Alyne Simmons Recruitment Grant; Jakeem Triplett of Philadelphia, The Tom-Tom Award; and Reagan Harris of Philadelphia, The Lucille Wood Scholarship.

Andrew F. Webb Football Award; Demetreuna Rankin of Forest, Jack B. Mayo Phi Theta Kappa Award; and Mackenzie Johnson of Nanih Waiya, Dr. Edwin Miller Medical Services Award.

Faculty Memorial Awards were presented to Matthew Moore of Decatur, Aaron R. Davis Memorial Scholarship; Savannah Watkins of

Corps, Campus Catholic Ministries, and Students Against Destructive Decisions. She is co-editor of the yearbook, vice president of scholarship for Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, vice president of the Student Body Association, and a member of Centralettes, Environmental Club, concert choir, College Republicans, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, Students for Life and Phi Beta Lambda.

She was selected HEADWAE Student of the Year and was selected for Phi Theta Kappa's All-Mississippi Academic First Team.

Gorgas is a graduate of Newton County High School and is the daughter of Dan and Lisa Gorgas of Decatur.

Those nominating her wrote, "Reagan exudes numerous positive qualities. She is very active on the East Central campus and takes pride in what she does. She has participated in many different community service activities. She is always respectful and smiling. She takes her studies and activities seriously here at ECCC. Reagan is such a great student and well-rounded young lady I think she is a great Hall of Fame candidate."

Johnson is a member of the Lady Warrior softball team, Phi Theta Kappa, Warrior Corps, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Baptist Student Union and serves as historian for Sigma Sigma Mu Tau.

She was selected a freshman Homecoming maid, received the Lady Warrior Softball Hustle Award, and was the recipient of the Shirley Renaud Memorial and Landon Bryan Burt Memorial Scholarships.

She is a graduate of Nanih Waiya and is the daughter of Dr. Lee and Marla Johnson of Philadelphia.

Those nominating her

she has set for herself of becoming an occupational therapist. She is black and gold through and through and will always be a great ambassador for ECCC."

Parkes is a President's List scholar and member of the Lady Warrior softball team, Warrior Corps, Baptist Student Union Praise Team and BSU Council, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, Phi Theta Kappa, and College Worship.

She received numerous scholarships, the National Junior College Athletic Association Pinnacle Award for Excellence and the Mississippi Association for Community and Junior Colleges Distinguished Academic All-State Award.

Parkes is a graduate of Nanih Waiya High School and is the daughter of Luke and Tammy Parkes of Nanih Waiya.

Those nominating her wrote, "Marlee is a true Warrior. She has always loved ECCC and has been a part of the ECCC family for many years through her family who also attended ECCC. In addition to being a member of the Lady Warrior softball team, she has been an active member of many clubs and organizations. She has maintained a 4.0 as a pre-nursing major while being extremely busy on campus. Marlee is a dependable, hard-working student who can be counted on whenever called upon. She has proven herself to be a leader both on and off the field. ... Marlee is an excellent representative for ECCC and is very deserving of this high honor."

Ryals is a Dean's and President's List scholar and serves as vice president of membership for Phi Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, vice president of Warrior Corps and College Republicans and

Those nominating him wrote, "Peyton is a star student and human being - he is a hard worker in the classroom, a kind individual, a leader, a level-headed and respectful young man. He deserves this honor more than any student I have taught over the last two years. ... Peyton embodies everything that ECCC stands for. He is an extremely hard worker and shows up and works from the beginning of the event to the end. He shows initiative and takes direction well. He is also a true leader. He definitely deserves to be in the Hall of Fame."

Additional honors presented during Awards Day include the following:

Career award recipients include Jonathan Collins of Forest, Residential Carpentry Award; Elaina Boyle of Philadelphia, Cosmetology Award; Taylor Akins of Philadelphia and Jesse Alan Smith of Union, co-recipients, Welding & Cutting "Taylor Cup;" and Chaney Comans of Sebastopol, "Career Student of the Year."

Technical awards were presented to Brent Gooden of Hickory, Collision Repair Technology Award; Scott Main of Meridian, Automotive Technology Award and "Technical Student of the Year;" Takara Bingham of Noxapater and Stephanie Rand of Bay Springs, co-recipients, Early Childhood Education Technology Award; Tyler Withers of Walnut Grove, Electrical Technology Award; Leonard Nelson of Union and Darby Kilpatrick of Conehatta, co-recipients, Heating and Air Conditioning Technology Award; Alaina Barrier of Philadelphia, Culinary Arts Technology Award and Hotel and Restaurant Management Technology Award; Kevin Chapman of Newton, Precision Manufacturing and Machining Technology Award; and Antonio King of Carthage, Network Support Technol-

Annurkes Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship; Mackenzie Johnson of Nanih Waiya, Dr. Margaret Mosal for Leadership Scholarship; Brady Thrash of Sebastopol, Alford J. Deaton Physics Award; Mikiyala Wells of Little Rock and Vimal Patel of Carthage, East Central Environmental Club Award; Kristen Kennedy of Union, Richard Fisher Organic Chemistry Award; Cayman Ruffin of Philadelphia, Anthony Coleman Men's Basketball Award; Cory Furlow of Clinton and Carolyn Nickles of Pelahatchie, co-recipients, Roy Pete Award for Soccer; Jack Vidals of Chunky, Elisabeth Hall of Mendenhall and Meilii Tumbling-Jordan of Newton, co-recipients, ECCC Concert Choir Award; Jonathan Hall of Philadelphia, EC ENCORE Award; Sydney Luvane of Lauderdale, ECCC Gospel Choir Award; Zackary Nowell of Philadelphia, S. Lebrun Hutchinson Engineering Scholarship; Ryan Ethridge of Collinsville, Freshman Mathematics Award; Julia Johnston of Florence, Sophomore Mathematics Award and Secondary Education Award; Madison Boykin of Preston, Myrtle R.

Awards were presented to Grace Addy of Carthage, Billy Wayne Baucum Secondary Education Award; Landrey Godwin of Newton, Opal McMullan Dickerson Elementary Education Award; Eric Malone of Carthage, W.A. Coursey, Jr. Engineering Award; Cory Furlow of Clinton, Danny Ray Killens Engineering Award; Tracie King of Union, Ruth Carr-Vincent Academic Award for Excellence in Non-Traditional Education; Makaeya Brock of Decatur, Alatha Chaney English Award; Justin Wilcher of Philadelphia, Sara Carr Deaton Business Technology Award; Miriam Patrick of Forest, Sue Yarbrough Fulgham Speech Award; Tom Langelaar of Veldhoven, Netherlands, Arno Vincent Award for Academic Excellence in Athletics; Bailey Smith of Philadelphia, William S. Giffin Men's Intramural Award; Autumn Taylor of Newton, Earline Wood Memorial Award for Women's Basketball; Thurston McCarty of Shubuta, Howard Sessums Men's Basketball Award; Javontae Spivey of Forest, Homer F. Hunter Athletic Managers Award; Aaron Rainey of Saucier,

Wood Biology Science Award; Larry Reed, Jr., of Decatur, Dr. Shelby L. Harris Memorial Scholarship; Haileigh Cleveland of Chunky, J. Wallace Bedwell Business Award; Andrew Weir of Newton, Frank M. Cross Freshman Chemistry Award; Joshua Warnsley of Decatur, J. Andy Miller Freshman Engineering Award; Jesse Alexander of Philadelphia, O.L. Newell Drafting Award; Anna Brown of Forest, Charles E. Pennington Business Technology Award; Savanna Baucum of Decatur, Robert G. Fick Memorial Scholarship; Breann Nicholson of Philadelphia and Reagan Gorgas of Decatur, co-recipients, Ruth Hull Memorial Wo-He-Lo Award; Jacob Edwards of Decatur and Davis Lott of Clinton, co-recipients, Jamie Clark Memorial Baseball Award; Christian Sharpe of Walnut Grove, Leon Eubanks Kaljyc-Peers Leadership Award; Miriam Patrick of Forest, L.B. Simmons History Award; Kalyn Smith of Carthage, Thomas W. Thrash Memorial Scholarship; and Joshua Grimes of Lake, General William Patrick Wilson Academic Scholarship.



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Warrior Athletics

Williams named head women's basketball coach

Former Northwest Mississippi Community College and Ole Miss basketball standout and Holmes Community College women's assistant coach LaTaryl Williams is the new head women's basketball coach at East Central Community College.

Williams assumed his duties following the conclusion of the Holmes season. He takes over a women's program that qualified for National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 play in three of the past four seasons, including a Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges State Championship in the 2015-16 season.

He replaces head men's basketball coach Robert Thompson, who coached both the ECCC men's and women's teams

during the 2017-18 season.

"We are excited to welcome LaTaryl Williams to the East Central family," said ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart. "After meeting with Coach Williams during the interview process, I believe he will exemplify the 'EC Way—Excellence with Class' as he leads our Lady Warrior basketball team. His experience playing basketball at the community college, university, and professional levels, as well as his experience serving as an assistant coach at Holmes Community College, will be invaluable as he begins his career as a head coach. I look forward to his leadership of our program."

Williams just finished his sixth season as assistant coach for the women's program at

Holmes Community College in Goodman, where he has helped lead the Lady Bulldogs to postseason appearances the past four seasons, including the semifinals of the 2016 NJCAA Region 23 Tournament.

"First and foremost, I would like to thank God for this awesome opportunity," said Williams. "Once I decided to get into coaching, being a head coach on the collegiate level was my ultimate goal. Secondly, I would like to thank Dr. Billy Stewart and Athletics Director Chris Harris for believing in me



WILLIAMS

and my ability to lead this storied program. Their support of the athletics programs at East Central played a major part in me accepting this position. I look forward to working with them to continue the success of the East Central women's basketball program.

"Lastly, I would like to thank the faculty and staff at Holmes Community College. It has been an amazing six years and I've met some great people there. I would like to especially thank Coach Jamilah Andrews for giving me an opportunity to work as her assistant coach. The experience I've gained while working under her tutelage has given me a tremendous amount of confidence to lead the Lady Warriors. I want to ensure the alumni and fans of East Central

that we're going to work hard, compete, and do it all the EC Way, and that is with Excellence and Class."

A native of Oxford, Williams was a standout player for Oxford High School, averaging 23 points, nine rebounds and four steals per game as a senior and earning All-State honors from The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger and the Class 4A North Most Valuable Player award from The Daily Journal in Tupelo. He also was the Most Valuable Defensive Player of the 1996 Mississippi High School All-Star Game.

He played two seasons for Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia, before signing with the University of

See WILLIAMS, Page 7

No. 15 EC Softball gets road sweep at Hinds

The No. 15 ranked East Central Community College Lady Warriors picked up an important road doubleheader sweep over the Hinds Community College Lady Eagles Tuesday, April 10, as the two teams fight for playoff positioning in the MACJC softball standings.

The doubleheader was played at René Warren Softball Field on the Hinds campus in Raymond.

East Central scored a run in the top of the seventh and held on for a 6-5 win in game one. The Lady Warriors scored five runs in both the second and fifth

Eagles are 18-14 overall and 11-7 in league play.

In the opener, the Lady Warriors went up 3-0 after two innings thanks to a Hinds' error and RBI doubles from Mackenzie Johnson of Nanih Waiya and Madalyn McMahon out of Neshoba Central. After Hinds tied the score 3-3 in the third, East Central went back on top in the fourth on another Hinds' error.

A double by Cassie Obman of Caledonia would give East Central a 5-3 lead in the top of the sixth, before the Lady Eagles tied the game 5-5 with two runs



EC PHOTO

Katherine Shell, shown in recent action, hit a two-run home run in the second game against Hinds.

Ball named MACJC Player of the Week

East Central Community College sophomore infielder/outfielder Wyatt Ball was named the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Baseball Player of the Week for March 19-25.



BALL

With the sweep, the East Central Lady Warriors improved to 27-9 overall on the season and 14-8 in MACJC play. East Central is now tied for third in the league standings. The top four teams host first-round playoff series at the conclusion of the regular season. The Hinds Lady

Marlee Parkes out of Nanih Waiya would get the game-winner for East Central in the top of the seventh with an RBI single. Hinds threatened in the bottom of the seventh with a runner on third and only one out, but winning pitcher Kaitlyn Oswalt out of Heritage Academy (Co-

earn the 6-5 win. Oswalt struck out eight batters in the game. Big innings powered the Lady Warriors in game two. Trailing 2-0, East Central scored five runs in the second, including two on a single by Kenyatta Moore of Philadelphia and one on a single from Obman.

After Hinds regained the lead 6-5 after four innings, East Central had another five-run inning in the fifth. Eva Scott (Burleson, Texas, Centennial) circled the bases on an error on her fly to center. Katherine Shell

See SOFTBALL, Page 7

No. 20 East Central baseball picks up road sweep at Hinds

The No. 20 ranked East Central Community College Warriors had to overcome early leads by Hinds Community College in both games to earn an important road doubleheader sweep over the Eagles Tuesday, April 10, at Joe G. Moss Field Raymond.

East Central trailed 5-0 after the first inning of game one before scoring the last nine runs of the game for a 9-5 win. Hinds again scored the first two runs of game two, before the Warriors scored the final three runs for a 3-2 win in the seven-inning contest.

With the MACJC sweep, East Central is 22-10 overall on the season and 11-5 and in third place in MACJC league play. The Hinds Eagles are now 20-10 overall and 6-8 in MACJC play.

Hinds scored five runs in the bottom of the first inning in game one on just three hits. Two hit batters and an East Central error helped the Eagles in the big inning. After that, Warrior pitchers Payton Griffin and Will Ross held Hinds scoreless the next eight innings.

East Central got a run in the second on a double by freshman Ken Scott of Clarkdale, two more in the fourth on a single by fresh-

man Alex Hay of Lewisburg, and another on a fielder's choice in the fifth. The Warriors finally got the lead in the seventh. Freshman George Farid (Mississauga, Ontario, Canada) tied the game with an RBI single. After two runs crossed the plate on a Hinds' error, freshman Zack Hutchison of Ellisville singled in a run to make the score 8-5.

The Warriors got an insurance run in the top of the eighth on a solo home run from freshman Deon Leflore of Leake Central to make the final score 9-5.

After a rough first inning, Griffin, a right-hander out of Hebron Christian School in Pheba, settled down and allowed just two hits and no runs over the next six innings. He struck out seven Hinds batters. Freshman right-hander Will Ross of Hernando came on in the eighth and pitched two scoreless innings of one-hit ball for the save.

In the nightcap, Hinds again grabbed an early lead with two runs in the bottom of the first on two hits. The Eagles would manage just one hit off East Central pitching the next six innings.

The Warriors closed the gap to 2-1 with an RBI single by Farid in the top of the third and



EC PHOTO

Deon Leflore is welcomed home by George Farid after hitting a home run in recent action. Leflore hit a solo home run in the first game against Hinds.

tied the game 2-2 on a double by Davis Lott of Lewisburg in the fourth. Another RBI single by Farid in the fifth proved to be the game-winner.

Brooks Warren of French Camp Academy got the start and the win for East Central. The left-hander threw five and a third innings and gave up two

runs on two hits while striking out four batters. Right-hander Dylan Marsh of Lake Cormorant threw the final inning and two thirds for the save.

Most home baseball games can be heard on WKOZ Cruisin 98.3 or via audio stream and live stream video at www.eccc.edu/eccc-media.

13 East Central went 4-0 with sweeps of Southwest Mississippi Community College and Holmes Community College.

For the week, Ball hit .625 (10-16) with three doubles, a triple, and a home run. He knocked in eight runs and also scored 10 runs. He stole two bases. Ball hit for the cycle (single, double, triple, home run) over the two games against Southwest, and he had a walk-off single in the bottom of the seventh to help the Warriors beat Holmes 3-2 in game two of the series.

Marsh named MACJC Pitcher of the Week

East Central Community College sophomore right-hander Dylan Marsh was



MARSH

named the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Baseball Pitcher of the Week for March 12-18.

The University of Louisiana Monroe signee from Lake Cormorant pitched a one-hit shutout in the Warriors' 7-0 win over Coahoma Community College on Saturday, March 17. Marsh struck out nine batters in the seven innings of work. He threw only 96 pitches in the win.

Earlier in the week, Marsh struck out six Panola College batters in four innings of work in a 9-6 loss. He gave up four hits and no earned runs in the game.

In his 11 innings of work during the week, he gave up just five hits and struck out 15 batters.

Taylor, Dotson, McCarty selected to MACJC All-Star basketball teams

East Central Community College sophomore basketball players Autumn Taylor of Newton, Jaquan

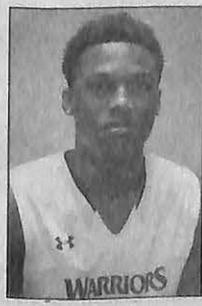


TAYLOR

Dotson of Philadelphia, and Thurston McCarty of Quitman were all selected to participate in the annual Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges All-Star Basketball contests.

The doubleheader was held Friday, April 13, in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium on the East Central

campus. Taylor, a 5-7 guard who prepped at Newton High School, averaged 10 points, seven rebounds,



DOTSON

five assists, and two steals per game this season for the Lady Warriors.

Dotson, a 6-4 guard who prepped at Neshoba Central High School, was second on the team with 14 points per game for the Warriors. He led the team with seven rebounds per game.

McCarty, a 6-7 guard out of Quitman High School, averaged nearly 13 points and five rebounds a game.



MCCARTY

ECCC dedicates Lucille Wood Tennis Court

East Central Community College officially dedicated Lucille Wood Court on Tuesday, March 20, at the college's new Tennis Complex on campus.

One of the eight courts at the new state-of-the-art complex was named in recognition of Wood thanks to a gift to the college from members of her family.

A 1951 graduate of then East Central Junior College, Wood was a two-sport star athlete at East Central who also was a championship-winning coach at her alma mater.

Wood, a native of Louisville, served as men's and women's tennis coach at East Central from 1957-76, club volleyball coach from 1968-71, and led the women's basketball team from 1958-85. Two of her women's basketball teams won state club titles and two won Mississippi Junior College Athletic Association state titles. Several other of her women's basketball teams won division titles. She also captured a state title in club volleyball in 1970, and five of her tennis players won individual state championships.

She is considered a pioneer in women's athletics and worked towards the implementation of the Title IX ruling for colleges in Mississippi.

Wood is a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association Women's Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, Mississippi



East Central Community College President Dr. Billy Stewart, right and Jim Wood, unveil the new sign marking the Wood Court at the new Tennis Complex on campus.

EC PHOTO

Community College Sports Hall of Fame, and ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame. The college's Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium was named in honor of Wood and Denver Brackeen in 1988.

The new ECCC Tennis Complex opened in February 2017 on the north side of campus between the softball and baseball complexes.

The Tennis Complex includes eight lighted courts to serve the ECCC men's and women's varsity tennis teams, as well as the campus and local communities. The facility includes

parking and spectator areas, which were very limited at the former four-court tennis complex on campus that was originally built in 1969.

A fundraising effort is underway to fund the construction of a building near the main entrance of the new Tennis Complex to house men's and women's locker rooms, coach's office, team meeting room, concessions area, and restrooms, as well as name the remaining seven courts.

WILLIAMS

From Page 6

Mississippi. He helped lead Northwest to a 57-11 record over two years and an appearance in the 1998 NJCAA Final Four in Hutchinson, Kan., while earning MACJC All-State and NJCAA All-Region 23 and All-Tournament honors.

At Ole Miss, he was on the first Rebel basketball team to ever win an NCAA Tournament game in 1999 and on the 2000 team that played in the National Invitational Tournament.

Williams played professionally in South America and Europe for a decade before suffering a career-ending knee injury while playing for the Leicester Riders in the United Kingdom. While in the United Kingdom, he was an assistant coach for one season for the Leicester Riders and operated a Basketball Academy at Burleigh Community College in Loughborough for nearly four years.

He was named assistant women's basketball coach at Holmes in July 2012.

"Coach Williams brings to our coaching staff a wealth of recruiting experience in the state of Mississippi," said ECCC Athletics Director Chris Harris. "Having coached and recruited in the MACJC for the past six years will give Coach Williams the opportunity to come in and immediately begin recruiting quality student-athletes and building and sustaining a competitive women's basketball program."

Williams earned his bachelor's degree in Leisure and Sports Management from the University of Mississippi and his master's in Sports Coach-



EC signs 21 new football players

East Central Community College head football coach Ken Karcher announced the addition of 21 new members to the Warrior football team on National Signing Day Wednesday, Feb. 7.

The newcomers are all high school seniors.

"We are excited to welcome these 21 young men to our football family," said Karcher. "Our staff did an excellent job in finding young men who are good football players and fit our mission. We are looking forward to working with each one of them."

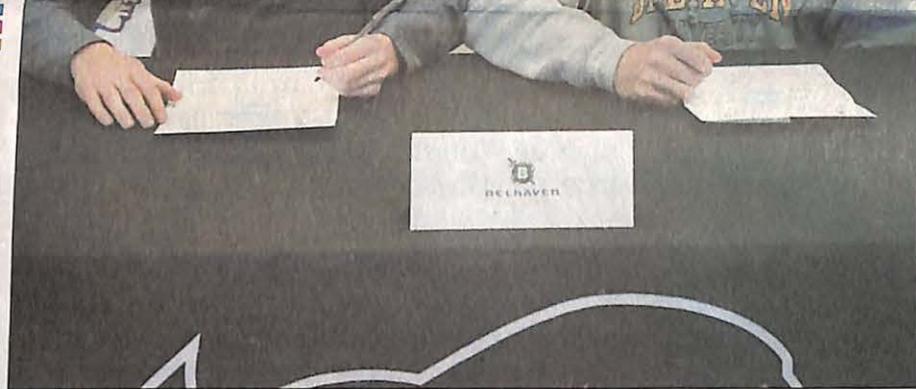
from Thomas County Central High School in Thomasville, Ga.

- Cole Morgan, a 6-2, 245-pound defensive lineman from East Webster High School in Maben.

- David Nix, a 6-2, 245-pound defensive lineman from Southeast Lauderdale High School in Meridian.

- Isaac Patterson, a 6-1, 180-pound defensive back from East Webster High School in Maben.

- Fabian Pickering, a 6-2, 285-pound offensive lineman



EC PHOTO

SIGN WITH BELHAVEN – East Central Community College men's soccer players Jacob Thomas (right) and Tyler White have signed to continue their careers for the NCAA Division III Belhaven University Blazers in Jackson, Miss. The pair helped lead the Warriors to 19 wins and appearances in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state playoffs the past two years, including a MACJC North Division title in fall 2017. Thomas, who prepped at Northwest Rankin, was a standout midfielder for the Warriors. He had 17 points in 16 matches for East Central, including five goals and seven assists. He was named First Team MACJC All-State and selected to play in the MACJC All-Star Game following his sophomore season. He received the team's Best Defense Award at the Fall Sports Awards Banquet on campus and was named team captain. Thomas was also named MACJC Distinguished Academic All-State and received the National Junior College Athletic Association Award for Superior Academic Achievement. White, who played his high school soccer at Madison-Ridgeland Academy, was a standout defender for East Central. His play during the 2017 season earned him a spot in the MACJC All-Star Game and on the NJCAA All-Region 23 Team. White earned MACJC Academic All-State honors following his sophomore season.



EC PHOTO

SIGNS WITH MILES COLLEGE – Former East Central Community College defensive tackle Jamari Smith signed recently to continue his football career at Miles College in Fairfield, Ala. The 6-0, 300-pound Smith, who prepped at Leake Central High School, had 28 tackles and one sack for the Warriors last season. Shown with Smith is his mother, Angela Leflore.

the spring.

- Players signing with ECCC Feb. 7 include:
- Justin Davis, a 6-2, 280-pound offensive lineman from Noxubee County High School in Macon.
 - Alvin Dempsey, a 6-1, 285-pound defensive lineman from Port St. Joe High School in Florida.
 - Jamarvis Echols, a 6-2, 210-pound wide receiver/tight end from North Panola High School in Sardis.
 - Jarvis Echols, a 6-2, 205-pound wide receiver/tight end from North Panola High School in Sardis.
 - Dominic Eiland, a 6-1, 330-pound offensive lineman from Philadelphia High School.
 - Dontrell Green, a 6-2, 185-pound wide receiver from Yazoo County High School in Yazoo City.
 - Fred Green, a 6-0, 170-pound defensive back from D'Iberville High School.
 - Jamar Jackson, a 6-0, 165-pound defensive back from George County High School in Lucedale.
 - Elijah Keyes, a 5-8, 205-pound linebacker from Mize High School.
 - Martavous McCray, a 6-1, 280-pound defensive lineman

- 270-pound defensive lineman from Greene County High School in Eutaw, Ala.
 - Tyler Reynolds, a 6-3, 320-pound offensive lineman from Manchester Academy in Yazoo City.
 - Payton Rogers, a 6-0, 220-pound linebacker from Forest High School.
 - Courtney Smith, a 5-10, 205-pound running back from Philadelphia High School.
 - Miles Smith, a 6-0, 245-pound defensive lineman from Noxubee County High School in Macon.
 - Ronnie Thomas, a 6-0, 260-pound defensive lineman from Clinton High School.
 - Tyrese Winford, a 6-1, 185-pound quarterback from Callaway High School in Jackson.
- The East Central Community College Warriors open the 2018 season on Thursday, Aug. 30, when they travel to Senatobia to take on Northwest Mississippi Community College. Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m.
- The first home football game of 2018 is Thursday, Sept. 13, when Southwest Mississippi Community College visits Bailey Stadium in Decatur for a 6:30 p.m. kickoff.

Williams has a daughter, Lianna, who is seven.

SOFTBALL

From Page 6

out of Brookhaven hit a two-run homer. A double by Shelby Walters of Northwest Rankin scored a run, and another Hinds' error scored the 10th East Central run.

The Lady Warriors added a couple of insurance runs in the top of the seventh on a two-run homer from Obman.

Obman had three RBI in the contest, while Moore, Shell, and Walters had two each.

Mackenzie Rousseau (Houma, La., Vanderbilt Catholic) picked up the win in the circle for East Central.

Most home softball games can be heard on WKOZ Cruisin 98.3 or via audio stream and live stream video at www.eccc.edu/eccc-media.

UWA's Rundles speaks at First Pitch Dinner

Gary Rundles, head baseball coach at the University of West Alabama, was the featured speaker at the annual East Central Community College Baseball First Pitch Dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 26. The event was held in the Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.

In addition to dinner and Rundles' address, ECCC Head Baseball Coach Neal Holliman introduced his 2018 team and the 2018 Diamond Darlings, along with other special presentations and recognition. Holliman played collegiately at the University of West Alabama and was a one-time assistant to Rundles.

Rundles has more than 40 years of coaching experience, including 17 at the University of West Alabama in Livingston, where he has won 577 games and made six NCAA Regional appearances.

In all, Rundles has coached 1,562 games as a collegiate head coach. He is 577-336 in

17 years at West Alabama and 949-613 in 30 years as a college head coach.

Rundles has been inducted into the Tennessee Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame, the Central (Tenn.) High School Hall of Fame, the Greater Chattanooga Area Sports Hall of Fame and UWA Athletic Hall of Fame.

He has guided the Tigers to regional berths in two of the last three years, including an NCAA South Region final in 2017. The 2015 season was one of the top in Rundles' decorated career. He led the Tigers to a nation-leading 20-game winning streak and a 42-11 record before losing in the South Regional to eventual national champion University of Tampa.

Along the way, UWA captured both the regular season and Gulf South Conference tournament titles. Rundles also earned 2015 GSC Coach of the Year honors.

In 2009, Rundles guided the Tigers to a 38-16 record and a berth in the NCAA South Regional along with a conference tournament appearance. It was the fourth regional bid for UWA while under Rundles direction. In 2008, Rundles directed UWA to a 45-13 record and an appearance in the NCAA South Central Regional in Cleveland, Miss. The 45 wins tied the school record set in 2005.

In 2007, Rundles led UWA to the Gulf South Conference East Division crown. The Tigers compiled a 41-16 record and earned a spot in the GSC Tournament Championship Game. In 2006, Rundles guided the Tigers to a 42-22 record, including a runner-up finish in the GSC Tournament and a berth in the South Central Regional. His 2005 team also won the GSC Tournament and posted a 45-19 record en route to an NCAA regional tournament berth.

of Mendenhall High School. Her selections for French horn include "Reveries" by Alexander Glazunov, "Villanelle" by Paul Dukas and "Star Wars" by John Williams. Collins is from Forest and a graduate of Scott Central High School. He will present selections for baritone including "Honor and Arms" by George Frideric Handel, "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" by Paul Dukas, "Andante and Allegro" by Robert Clerisse, and "The Addams Family Theme" by Vic Mizzy.

performance also included percussion selections which included "Firefly" by Mitchell Peters, "Gliding" by Brett William Dietz and "Buckingham Palace" by Lalo Davila. Hall is from Philadelphia and a graduate of Philadelphia High School. He performed percussion selections including "Tork" by James Campbell, "Ghost Garden" by Adam Hopper, "Asi Bailo Yo" by Lalo Davila and "Sabre Dance from Gayane Ballet" by Aram Khachaturian arranged by Morris Goldenberg.



BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM – Members of the East Central Community College Gospel Choir performed during the college's annual Black History Month program held in the Vickers Fine Arts Center auditorium. Brenda Johnson serves as gospel choir sponsor. Jerry Smith of Philadelphia, vice chairman of the ECCC Board of Trustees, served as guest speaker.



ECCC SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM GRADUATES – Graduates of East Central Community College's Surgical Technology Program received special recognition at the annual pinning ceremony held recently on the Decatur campus. Students who completed the 12-month program and their respective hometowns include (first row, from left) Baylee Buckley of Lake, Sam Copeland of Niceville, Fla., Sarah Laird of Meridian, Alexis Evans of Newton, Aleia McLemore of Union, Ashley Watkins of Conehatta, Kalee Stennis of Louisville, Stacey Joyner of Dekalb; and (back row, from left) Brianna Moody of Philadelphia, Andie Adcock of Conehatta, Lacey Burton of Newton, Meagan Kilpatrick of Conehatta, Krystal Lundy of Meridian, Le'Ann Boyles of Lake, Tara Shempert of Philadelphia, KeShonda Wilson of Louisville, Merceydys Rasco of Newton. LeAnn Shirley and Kristie Pilgrim serve as instructors.



PBL HALL OF FAME – East Central Community College students (from left) Kiara Cunningham and Khalil Triplett, both of Philadelphia, and Jessica Everett of Decatur were inducted into the Mississippi Phi Beta Lambda Hall of Fame during the organization's 2018 State Leadership Conference. The trio earned the coveted recognition following a first place award in the Small Business Management Plan competition during the 2017 National Leadership Conference held in Anaheim, Calif. Christy Ferguson, Thomas Fortenberry and Judy Hurtt serve as advisors.



RECEIVES EC SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY HONOR – Sarah Laird (center) of Meridian displays a certificate she received for being selected Surgical Technology Student of the Year at East Central Community College. Laird was presented the award in recognition of her academic excellence in the classroom and performance in clinical settings. She received the award from program instructor LeAnn Shirley (right) and instructor director/program instructor Kristie Pilgrim (left). The presentation was made during the program's annual pinning ceremony held recently in the Vickers Fine Arts Center.